

## Welcome Note

It has been a busy half term with various visits, sporting events and trips, but a special congratulations to Year 6 children who won the annual 'Building Challenge', read more about it below. We have been working on introducing a new Handwriting scheme over the last few months and attached are summary sheets for each letter join; please speak to your class teacher if you have any questions. This week we have been working with an external consultant, Gill Hines, to review our Sex & Relationship Policy. Gill will be hosting a parent information meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March if anyone is interested in finding out about the policy and scheme we are developing, you are very welcome to attend.

After half term Year 6 will be running their Annual Charity event. This year will be in aid of our link school Freetown Cheshire Home School in Sierra Leone, Africa. Last year their founder, Abs (Dr. Abdulai Don Dumbuya) visited us and lead an assembly, several staff have also visited the school including, Mrs Kerslake and Miss Bradley. This is the same school that Ms Kircough left Birch Hill Primary to be Headteacher at last summer.

Finally, the winter flu has clearly had an impact on both children and staff; I am aware that lots of children have been off school, as well as many staff. I hope everyone has a restful half term and come back fully recovered.



## Building Challenge

Congratulations to the Birch Hill Building Team, who won the Year 6 Building Challenge, scoring a stunning 100%! The team members were: Conor Leahy, Aisaac De Jesus, Oscar Brook, Danny Bull, Jackson Brown and Joel Kerslake.

The event took place at Owlsmoor Primary School and involved the challenging task of viewing an object, reporting back, purchasing relevant materials and finally replicating the object by constructing it from scratch.

## Salvation Army Visitor

Prior to Christmas Year 4 had a visit from Matthew Stone, Community Manager of the Salvation Army based in Reading, to help deliver a PSHE lesson. Following this Matthew was invited back this term to lead a whole-school assembly where he introduced the children to the Wemix, characters from his favourite book. He based his assembly on this story and explained, using a bible story, that despite our differences when we work together we can achieve great things. The children, and staff alike, were enchanted by his message. We are hoping that he will visit the school again in the near future.



## Year 5 Chertsey Museum Trip

Year 5 enjoyed a visit to Chertsey museum to study the Greeks. A great day was had dressing up, making clay horses, making writing tablets and exploring artefacts. A Greek God and Goddess trail through the museum tested the children's observation skills. They even did a little acting of some famous Greek myths. The children all had fun and were very knowledgeable answering questions on the things we had studied in class.

## Family Learning Sessions

Thank you to all those who attended the Year 1 Family Learning Maths workshop recently. Parent feedback was that they liked seeing their children "enjoying maths!"

The next family learning workshop is for Year 2 on 27th and 28th of March. More information to follow.



## Staff News

I would like to say well done and many thanks to BA Ed trainees Emily Smart and Kanurshi Arulrasa who have been working with us over the last few months; Emily in 1M and Kanurshi in 3OB.

A few weeks ago we hosted a training day with **Jenny Mosley** with six other local schools including; Fox Hill, Wildridings, Sandy Lane, Harmans Water and Binfield. Jenny is an internationally renowned trainer and author. We looked at Well-Being, Circle-Time and Lunchtime systems. We hope to work with the local schools and Jenny over the next 18 months.

### **Safeguarding**

Mr Hughes-White led a whole school assembly to acknowledge Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day 2018 was celebrated globally on Tuesday 6th February with the slogan "Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you" The assembly helped the children to explore which online behaviours have a positive effect on people, and which types of online behaviours have a negative effect. The children were asked to consider how they could manage an online conflict in a positive way, and describe actions they could take online that would make themselves and their friends feel happy and good about themselves.

Please see attached flyer 'Responsibility Online' from Gooseberry Planet.

### **Governors News**

The **Teaching, Learning and Standards** committee continues to monitor children's progress and the provision the school makes. In recent meetings we have had detailed discussions about pupil progress, Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Pupil Premium. The committee has reviewed the schools SEN policy and heard about some of the interventions the school uses to support children's learning. We would like to thank those parents who have also considered the policy as part of the review. The committee has been pleased to hear about the training that staff attend to continue to develop practice and find out about new approaches and resources. In some cases this has been followed up by the school purchasing new materials and schemes to continue to improve teaching and learning.

### **Friends Of Birch Hill Primary**

I would like to pass on our many thanks to Louise Burness who has chaired the Friends of Birch Hill committee for much of this year and along with the rest of the committee has worked incredibly hard organising various events to help raise funds to support our children's learning and the school environment. Unfortunately Louise has had to step down due to work commitments. Friends met on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February please see dates below and information for some up and coming Friends events including; Family Bingo, Children's Disco and Film Afternoon.



### **Fundraising scheme**

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feel good shopping

**Collect FREE funds for us when you shop online**

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easyfundraising is the simplest way to raise money for Birch Hill Primary School

Shop with any of over 3,300 well-known retailers via the easyfundraising website and a percentage of what you spend is passed to Friends of Birch Hill Primary School at no additional cost to you.

Retailers include Amazon, M&S, Vodafone, eBay, Tesco, Viking and many more. Please register to support us today –

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofbirchhillprim/?q=birch hill primary&cat=cause-autosuggest](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofbirchhillprim/?q=birch%20hill%20primary&cat=cause-autosuggest)

### **Community events info**

#### **Bracknell Forest Council Local Plan Consultation**

You may be aware, the Council is carrying out a public consultation on the Draft Bracknell Forest Local Plan . The consultation is due to start on Thursday 8th February at 10am and end on Monday 26th March 2018 at 5pm. The council is also consulting on a Draft Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Local Plan which assesses the proposals against a set of social, economic and environmental criteria.

The consultation link is: <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/consultations/current-consultations> which will lead to all the information/documents.

## Dates for the Term

Half Term	Monday 12th February-Friday 16th February
Year 3 Trip to Fishbourne	Thursday 22nd February
Parents' Evening	Tuesday 20th February—3.30-6.30pm & Thursday 1st March-4.00pm-7.00pm
Friends of Birch Hill Primary Quiz Night	Friday 2nd March—7pm for 7.30pm start
Sex & Relationship Parent Information Evening	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> March—7pm
Mother's Day Present Room	Friday 9th March
Year 3/4 Performance	Tuesday 20th March-9.30am & 6.30pm. Wednesday 21st March-2.00pm
Family Learning Workshop—2OS	Tuesday 27th March-9.00am
Family Learning Workshop—2HW	Wednesday 28th March-9.00am
End of Term	Thursday 29th March
INSET day	Monday 16th April
Summer Term starts	Tuesday 17th April

### Year 6 Charity Events

World Book Day	Thursday 1st March
Drawing Competition	Week Beginning 5th March
Fruit & Cake Sale	Tuesday 13th March
African Drumming Day	Monday 26th March
Talent & Crazy Hair Show	Thursday 29th March

If you have any suggestions or comments please write them below and return to the school office.

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